

**J**SC's Federal Women's Program manager reports that the role of women at the center has changed dramatically over the past two decades, and continues to evolve.

"Women and men have created a partnership in the workplace," said Jessie Hendrick, FWP manager. "For JSC, this partnership becomes more crucial as we all work together to meet the challenges of the future."

One need only examine the changes in the workforce from May 1980 to March 2000 to see the history and progress of

"As these statistics indicate, there have been many improvements for women during the last 20 years at JSC," said Hendrick. "Women are in every job classification at JSC. Over the past two decades, women have become members of senior staff, chief scientists, and one has commanded a shuttle mission. Women are working on new projects such as the X-38 and International Space Station. And women have chaired major center committees including the Johnson Space Center Safety Action Team and Inspection '99."

## Celebrating National Women's History Month

### *Statistics show improvements for women in JSC workforce*

women at JSC, Hendrick said. Today's figures show that there are 994 women employees (34.7 percent) at JSC out of 2,863 permanent full-time employees. That's an increase from 1980, when the numbers were 719 women employees (21 percent) out of 3,420 permanent full-time employees.

In 1980, the professional classification was comprised of engineering support, science and engineering, life sciences, and administration. The 1980 figures show that there were 2,575 professionals of which 205 were female or eight percent. Using the 1980 classification of professional, today there are 2,469 professionals, of which 705 are female or 28.6 percent. In 1980, two women had achieved a GS-15 grade, the highest grade for any JSC female employee at the time. Currently, there are 76 women and 326 men who hold the GS-15 grade. The highest grade possible is Senior Executive Service; six women and 57 men have achieved that rank. In addition, there were 13 women supervisor/managers out of approximately 493 in 1980; now there are 56 women out of 265.

The next category reviewed in 1980 was that of technicians and clerical staff. In 1980, three out of five employees in this category were women. The category included 303 technicians, of which 14 were women, and 542 clerical workers, of which 500 were women. Now, three out of four employees are women. There are 116 technicians, of which 15 are women, and 277 clerical employees, of which 274 are women.

According to Hendrick, the keys to advancement for these women have been education and the opportunities to apply their knowledge. Education includes any formal or continuing education and skills enhancement. JSC is very fortunate to have the Human Resources Development Branch, which provides access to multidisciplinary courses to assure enhancement in a variety of skills from basic to advanced.

But employees also need arenas in which to practice these skills. With the help of their management, all employees should look for opportunities to improve existing skills and develop new ones. These opportunities may include rotational assignments, special projects, chairing a committee, or working on teams.

As recently as the 1970s, women's history was almost unknown in the K-12 curriculum. To address this situation, a "Women's History Week" was initiated in Sonoma County, California, in 1978.

Recognition of women's history began with a Congressional Resolution that called upon the nation to celebrate National Women's History Week in 1981. That observance has now grown to a National Women's History Month, celebrated in March, and was first recognized in 1987 by a Congressional Resolution. During Women's History Month, American women of every ethnic background are honored for their historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation. ■

## Collins rings opening bell at New York Stock Exchange



Richard A. Grasso, left, chairman and CEO of the New York Stock Exchange, and William R. Johnston, president of the NYSE, join NASA Astronaut Col. Eileen Collins as she rings the opening bell above the Exchange's trading floor.

**P**erhaps the New York Stock Exchange should consider inviting NASA Astronaut Col. Eileen Collins to ring the opening bell more often. On the day that she rang the bell January 7, 2000, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 269 points.

From December 15, 1999, through January 10, 2000, the NYSE honored a select number of internationally distinguished individuals who made a difference during the 20th Century, individuals who enriched humanity and helped bring about a

better world by their values and ideals, by inviting them to "ring the bell" above the Exchange's trading floor. NYSE Chairman and CEO Richard Grasso invited Collins to participate in this special millennium event in recognition of her contributions to society, science and exploration.

Other individuals who participated in this special monthlong celebration at the NYSE include Joe Namath and Muhammed Ali.

"It was a great opportunity to talk to the personnel who run the New York Stock Exchange," said Collins, reflecting on her

experience. "They were very interested in NASA's mission, in particular what NASA's plans are for the future and the human side of the space experience. In exchange, I got a close-up look at the day-to-day operations of a stock exchange and how technology is changing the way they do business."

Collins' visit to the NYSE included a breakfast in her honor, a 15-minute talk to a group of executives, ringing the opening bell, media events, and a walk around the trading floor of the exchange. ■

## Stepfamilies to be subject of presentation

**D**r. James H. Bray, director of Family Psychology Programs and associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, will address current issues on divorce and stepfamilies in a special presentation March 29 at JSC. He will discuss many of the situations unique to stepfamilies and will offer suggested solutions.

Dr. Bray, sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program, has appeared on many national television programs, including *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *20/20*. He and collaborator, John Kelly, have also published a book based on his research work with stepfamilies entitled *Stepfamilies: Love, Marriage, and Parenting in the First Decade* (Broadway Books, 1998).

### Stepfamilies, Love, Marriage, and Parenting

James H. Bray, Ph.D.

March 29, 2000

Noon - 1 p.m.

Building 30 Auditorium